

### The Unpaid Pastor.

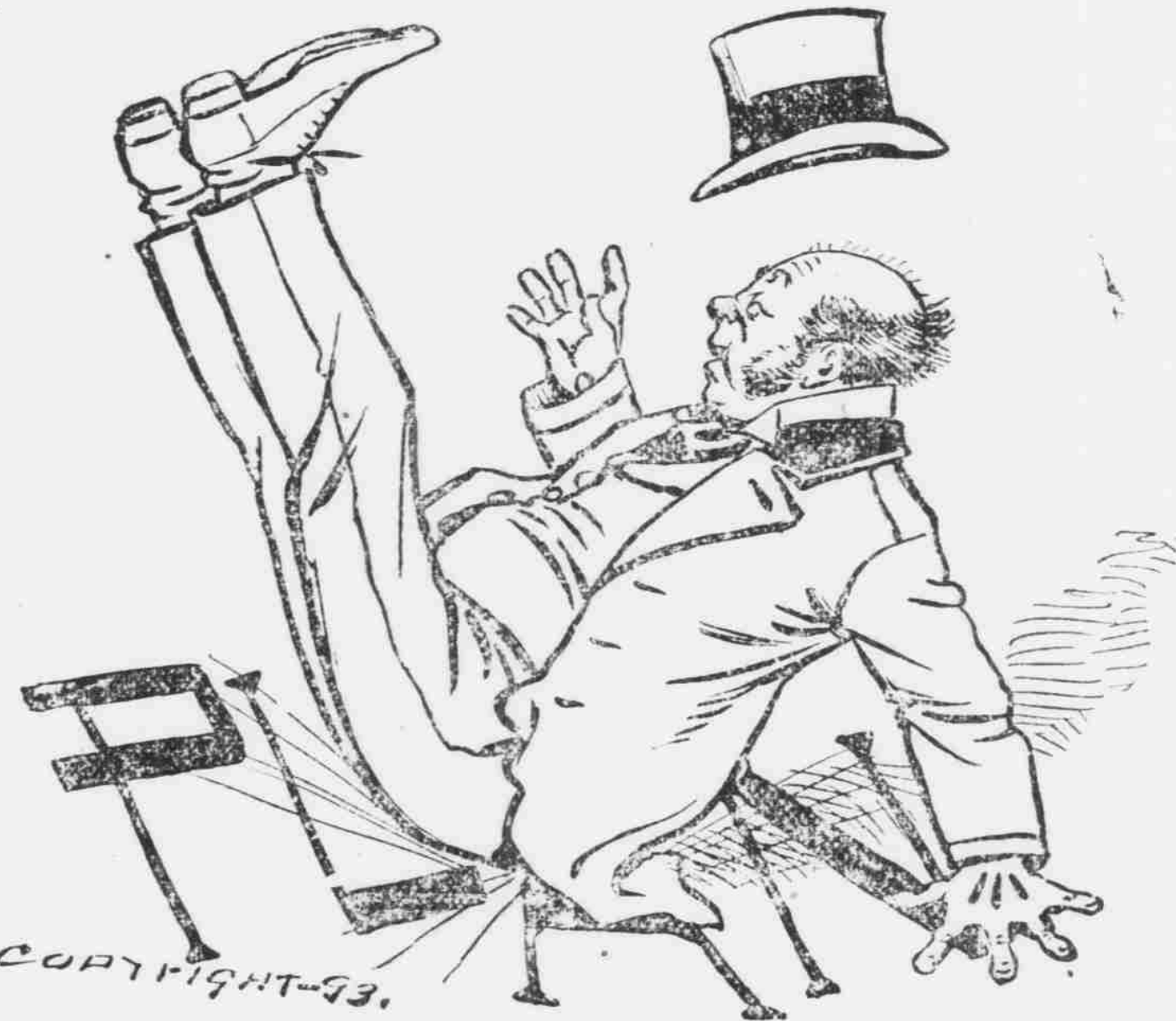
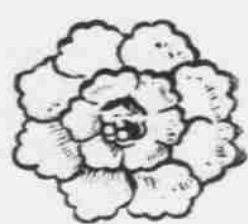
The pastor, of all men, should pay his debts. This he will do, if he can. If he can, and will not, he has no place in the ministry. From an observation of many years, during which time we have mingled much with Baptist preachers, we have found the case of the pastor who will not pay his debts an exception and a very rare one. And there has generally been an excuse for his remissness. That excuse usually is that he has not been paid for his services as pastor. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the pastor goes in debt relying upon the honesty of his church members to pay him the salary promised him. When they fail to do so, he is a pitiable object indeed. His hands are tied. He is unable, henceforth, to preach upon that virtue and its kindred virtues which should be considered among those which constitute a real Christian life. No man, therefore, who is dishonest, is capable of being a true preacher of the gospel. His obligations are as binding upon him as those of other men are upon them. The fact that he has given up his life for others is not a proper excuse for non-payment of any debt contracted. No sort of sentiment can obliterate his plain duty in the premises.

In view of these things, what shall be said of those churches which repudiate, annually, from one-fourth to one-third of what they promise the pastor? Only one thing can be said of them—they are dishonest. In the sight of God, they are as criminal as if they were the concoctors of some other sort of stealing. This is true if honesty is honesty. And they are not only responsible for their own dishonesty, but for the apparent dishonesty of their pastor, if he has involved himself in expectation of his salary being paid. Some people, who repudiate their pledges to the pastor, have never gotten out of their minds the conception which belittles them, that the pastor is a sort of mendicant. The truth is, God has placed him far above them, and their responsibility is to God, whose representative he is. Therefore, he is no more of a mendicant than God is. For He requires that His representative be supported by them to whom he ministers in spiritual things. Withal, we do not know but that the Presbyterians have a good law which covers this point. It is to the effect that no church can install a new pastor until it has settled in full with the retiring one. True, our method of church government does not permit this. But there should be an unwritten law among the preachers which covers this ground. Every one would reap benefit from such a course on their part. For what may an incoming pastor expect, in regard to his own salary, from a church which owes the outgoing one? And besides, if such a custom were in vogue among the preachers the churches would be forced to a higher ideal of honesty.

Under the present regime, the unpaid pastor will still be with us. It is not out of place, therefore, to say that it behooves the pastor, while he should be moral and hospitable, not to give away all that he has now, nor contract debts dependent upon contingencies. We know that this rule is more easily written than followed. For the preacher must give and he must also live. Nevertheless, the rule is a good one. It should be the habit of every one to pay as he goes. And to no one does this apply with more certainty than to the pastor. He should also live within his means and lay aside a little every month for the rainy day. We know some preachers on meager salaries who do this. They are uneasy if a debt is left unpaid over night. The fact that business men find it necessary to run accounts should not tempt the pastor to such a course. Of the man who is the exception to this rule of safe economy we are not speaking.



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On account of National Meeting of Kentucky Horse Breeders' Association at Lexington, Ky., will sell round trip tickets to Lexington on Oct. 7 and 8 for \$24.40, good until Oct. 21, 1895.

On account of the Grand Army of the Republic at Louisville, Ky., will sell round trip tickets to Louisville on Sept. 8, 9, 10 and 11 for only \$17.80, good until Oct. 5, 1895.

On account of dedication of the

Chicamauga and Chattanooga National Park, will sell round trip tickets to Chattanooga on Sept. 16 to 19 inclusive for only \$11.40, good until Oct. 13, 1895.

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### ONE WAY SETTLERS' RATES.

On September 4th and October 2nd, and on the first Tuesday of each month thereafter, until further advised, one way tickets will be sold via the Plant System from principal Ohio and Mississippi River gateways and from points beyond to principal points in Florida at a rate of one and one-half cent per mile, counting short line mileage.

### ATLANTA, GA.

Account Cotton States and International Exposition the Plant System will sell tickets September 5th and 12th, and every day from September 15th to December 15th, limited to January 7th, at \$18.55 from Ocala. Also September 16th until December 16th, limited twenty days, at \$13.60. Tickets sold every Tuesday and Thursday after September 16th to December 24th at \$9.90, limited ten days.

### KNOXVILLE, TENN.

September 15th to 16th, the Plant System will sell tickets to Knoxville and return account battlefield encampment of the Sons of Veterans, limited to return October 10th at \$13.10 from Ocala.

For further information apply to C. F. Faires, city ticket agent, Ocala House, F. C. Alworth, depot ticket agent, Ocala.

For tickets to all points, summer rates and the quickest time, call on or address F. J. Huber, ticket agt., Florida Southern depot; C. F. Faires city ticket agent, Ocala House; H. G. Haycraft, traveling passenger agent, Ocala; F. M. Jolly, division passenger agent, Tampa; B. W. Wrenn, general passenger agent, Savannah, Ga.; H. C. McFadden, assistant general passenger agent, Savannah, Ga.